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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of former Chicago Bears Coach Jim Dooley of Lake Forest, who passed away on January 8, 2008; and

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WHEREAS, Jim Dooley presided over four difficult years in Bears history as head coach from 1968 through 1971; he was the first coach after George Halas' permanent retirement; he came to the job as the culmination of a Bears career that began as the team's first-round draft choice in 1952 and featured major contributions as an assistant to Coach Halas on offense and defense; and

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WHEREAS, Jim Dooley was an outstanding defensive back and receiver on the Hurricanes at the University of Miami in his native city; he lettered at the University in 1949-1951 and was All-America his senior year; he intercepted four passes in the Gator Bowl; he was inducted into the University of Miami's Ring of Honor in 1997 and his jersey number 42 has never been worn since his induction; and

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WHEREAS, He led the Bears in interceptions as a rookie and led the team in pass receptions his second year; his main playing contributions came as a receiver in tandem with Harlon Hill; when he retired, Jim Dooley was third on the Bears'

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1 career receiving list with 211 catches despite missing two  
2 seasons while serving in the Air Force; and

3 WHEREAS, His first coaching assignment under Coach Halas  
4 was to help defensive coach George Allen incorporate the  
5 strategy the New York Giants employed under defensive  
6 coordinator Tom Landry; for the first time, pass coverage by  
7 linebackers became coordinated with defensive backs; Coach  
8 Allen popularized the "nickel" defense of substituting a fifth  
9 defensive back for a linebacker, called the "Dooley Shift"; he  
10 also experimented with zone blitzes, dropping linemen into pass  
11 coverage, a tactic considered revolutionary when other teams  
12 adopted it in the 1990s; after the Bears won the 1963 NFL title  
13 with a stifling defense, Dooley switched to offense and helped  
14 coach the high-scoring 1965 team featuring league-leading  
15 passer Rudy Bukich, rookie Gale Sayers, fullback Andy  
16 Livingston, and receivers Mike Ditka, Dick Gordon, and Johnny  
17 Morris; and

18 WHEREAS, Jim Dooley returned to the Bears at Coach Halas'  
19 request in 1981 as an assistant coach and remained with the  
20 Bears until 1990; he had the good fortune to coach Hall of  
21 Famers Gale Sayers and Dick Butkus, and the bad fortune of  
22 seeing both go down with knee injuries that would shorten their  
23 careers; and

1           WHEREAS, He proudly displayed a replica 1985 Super Bowl  
2 trophy in his apartment that was presented by Bears' owner  
3 Virginia McCaskey; late in his life he gathered some of his old  
4 Bears pictures to raise money for a soup kitchen at his  
5 family's church, Our Lady of Lourdes, on Chicago's North Side;  
6 and

7           WHEREAS, Jim Dooley is survived by his wife of 56 years,  
8 Elaine; his children, Jim Jr., Patrick, Tim, Bill, and Lisa;  
9 and his sixteen grandchildren; therefore, be it

10           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL  
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
12 his family and friends, the passing of Jim Dooley; and be it  
13 further

14           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
15 presented to the family of Jim Dooley as a symbol of our  
16 sincere sympathy.